

REMARKS

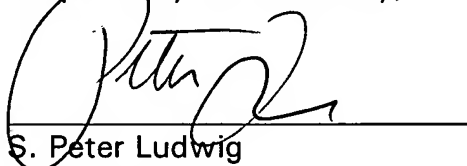
Entry of this amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested.

Claim 23 has been amended to omit a redundancy in subsection (b), "resulting in a gel formed composite", as it is repetitive with subsection (e), and subsections (c) and (d) of the claim clearly indicate that the mixture is still in solution form. In addition, claim 23 has been amended in subsection (e) to call for "adjusting" rather than "increasing". Support for these amendments can be found in Example 2 of the specification, specifically on page 16, lines 16-17. Claims 1-34 remain as pending claims. No new matter is added by this amendment.

A prompt Official Action on the merits of all claims is respectfully requested.

Dated: December 17, 2003

Respectfully submitted by,



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